

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 10, 2012, 6 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames M. Barnett presided.

Present were Mayor Barnett, council members Armour, Cullars, Harris, Rainey, Scarborough and Tutt. Also present were City Administrator Eskew, City Clerk Danner, City Attorney Fleming and City Police Chief Glenn.

Visitors present are listed in the Work Session minutes held on the same date.

Ms. Amethyst Wynn opened the meeting in prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED: On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved 6 to 0 the minutes from previous meetings subject to a correction to the August 31, 2012, called meeting.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVED: On motion by Armour, second by Harris, council approved 6 to 0 the meeting agenda as presented.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Economic Development Director David Jenkins reminded citizens of the Notify Me program for alerts through email and cell phones.

Jenkins provided council with a known list of events for the downtown square through spring of 2013. On motion by Cullars, second by Tutt, council approved 6 to 0 the events.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Police Chief Glenn thanked council and citizens for recent participation in the Police Forum. Another Forum will be scheduled to focus on education and departmental terms. Glenn also advised that the drug hotline number is again operational—706-678-7005.

ELECTION UPDATES: Voter Registrar Debbie Anderson distributed a listing of important dates relating to the 2012 general election calendar. This listing will be posted on the City Hall bulletin board.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett advised that the recent Police Forum had been a good event and will be televised on Comcast on the city channel.

Citizens wishing to make an appointment with the Mayor may see Kim Evans, Administrative Assistant, at City Hall to schedule an appointment time or to leave messages.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

RAINEY: Council member Rainey reported on GMA's Green Initiatives program for small businesses and financing availability.

Rainey also discussed the possible disposal of contents at the old high school property on Gordon Street. The four mobile classrooms have been sold. There was some discussion on turning over this property to the URA. The next URA meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2012, 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Rainey reported on a recent tour of Callaway Plantation facilities with possible recommendations to be made to the Historic Board. At this time, the cutting of the timber is not feasible.

CULLARS: Council member Cullars asked that all penalties for senior citizens be removed. This matter will be discussed by the electric committee in a meeting scheduled for September 24, 2012, 9:30 AM in the council chambers of city hall.

Cullars discussed the possibility of having a civil rights attorney assist in matters that the city attorney seeks further expertise.

Cullars asked that his council salary amount be paid at the first of each month instead of at the end of each month.

TUTT: Council Member Tutt discussed the historical significance of the Gordon Street school property and further expressed concerns raised by residents of District 1. After discussion, City Administrator Eskew was asked to provide with the October Council meeting packet a list of pros and cons of the city turning this property over to the URA for determining its future purpose.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE: On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved 5 to 1 to offer GMA 2 Tier Plans for HMO 90; POS 80/60/\$500; HMO 80/\$150; and, to fully fund the employee share of plan premium for 2013. Voting against the motion was Council member Armour.

In early 2013, city staff will investigate self-insurance options for 2014.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: City Administrator Eskew requested council approval of a cemetery drama to be presented by the Little Theatre on October 6 and 7 at Rest Haven Cemetery. On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved request 6 to 0.

Administrator Eskew advised of two 5K walks scheduled for October 20 and November 3 which have been coordinated with the Police Department.

Administrator Eskew advised that information had been included in each meeting packet concerning a recent visit to UGA's Vision Institute of Government.

Administrator Eskew asked for council approval of an 8" Water Line replacement contract with Stevenson and Palmer with a cost not to exceed \$18,000. On motion by Harris, second by Cullars, to approve contract, council voted 3-2-1. Voting against the motion were Scarborough and Tutt. Abstaining was Council member Armour.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett asked for council approval of DDA appointments of Sherman Gartrell, Preston Sanders and Susan Abramson. On motion by Cullars, second by Harris, council approved appointments 5 to 1. Council member Rainey voted against the motion.

Mayor Barnett asked for council approval of URA appointment of Billy Caddell and John Keen. On motion by Armour, second by Scarborough, council voted 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

Mayor Barnett asked for council approval of the appointment of Robbie Eubanks to the Zoning Appeals Board. On motion by Harris, second by Scarborough, council approved 3-3-1. Voting against the motion were council members Cullars, Rainey and Tutt. Mayor Barnett voted for the motion, breaking the tie vote.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK